

From: Erik Smith
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/24/02 8:44am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I think the proposed settlement is a BAD idea. Microsoft obviously has NOT learned their lesson. Just a week ago they announced how they have managed to get DVD set-top manufacturers to support playback of their highly proprietary WMA (windows media audio) files in lieu of the globally standard MP3 (MPEG Audio Layer 3) format supported by every platform and architecture internationally. Sounds a lot like the original scenario that led to this lawsuit/settlement doesn't it? The settlement does not do enough to reprimand the obviously guilty party. My tax dollars went to pursue this case of illegal behavior. My tax dollars found them guilty. If you do not take a firm action you will have not only wasted the tax dollars of all Americans but will waste them AGAIN as new lawsuits will emerge for the EXACT SAME illegal behavior. To sum up in a metaphor; it's time we spank our child for being the playground bully. Lectures have failed and a 10 minute timeout is not going to stop a kid that feeds on the pains of others.

Erik Smith

Network Engineer

Systems Administrator